



For Immediate Release
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SCHEDULE FOR 1st BIG EAST/BIG TEN BASEBALL CHALLENGE RELEASED
Games in Big League Stadiums Highlight Matchups

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – The schedule for the inaugural BIG EAST/Big Ten Baseball Challenge, hosted by the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Sports Commission, has been released, API Management and Marketing announced today. Twenty-seven games will be held February 20-22, 2009, at venues in St. Petersburg, Clearwater and Dunedin, FL, highlighted by Friday and Saturday evening doubleheaders at Knology Park and Bright House Field.

All 10 of the Big Ten's baseball-playing institutions will compete in the inaugural event, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State and Purdue. Eight BIG EAST representatives will participate, including South Florida, Connecticut, Georgetown, St. John's, Seton Hall, West Virginia, Cincinnati and Notre Dame. Each day there will be eight games that feature a BIG EAST team taking on a club from the Big Ten along with one non-conference contest in which two Big Ten schools face off.

Other venues to be utilized include the Raymond A. Naimoli Complex, the Tampa Bay Rays' former spring training facility in St. Petersburg; Progress Energy Park, the Rays' former spring training stadium in St. Petersburg; and Jack Russell Stadium, the former spring home of the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater. There will be games in four of the five venues on Friday and Saturday, including marquee evening matchups at Knology Friday, February 20, at 4 p.m. ET and 7:30 p.m. ET and in the same time slots at Bright House Saturday, February 21. Jack Russell Stadium and Progress Energy Park each will host three games per day Friday and Saturday and two Sunday.

The 4 p.m. game at Knology, the state-of-the-art spring training stadium of the Toronto Blue Jays, Friday, February 20, will feature **Penn State and St. John's**, with the 7:30 contest pitting **Ohio State against Notre Dame**. **Michigan and Cincinnati** will tangle at Bright House, the National League Champion Phillies' spring training stadium, Saturday, February 21, at 4 p.m. ET, followed by **Purdue vs. South Florida** at 7:30 p.m. ET. The Purdue-South Florida contest will be televised locally by **Bright House Sports Network**.

The inaugural BIG EAST/Big Ten Baseball challenge will conclude Sunday, February 22, with four games at various venues all starting at 1 p.m. ET. The day is highlighted by a matchup featuring **defending Big Ten champion Michigan and reigning BIG EAST regular-season champ St. John's** at Progress Energy Park.

The complete tournament schedule can be found below. Ticket information and other pertinent event details will be released in the near future. For more information please call **410-472-3500** or send an email to scott@api-mgmt.com.

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BIG EAST/BIG TEN CHALLENGE SCHEDULE
February 20-22, 2009

Friday, February 20

10 a.m.	Indiana vs. West Virginia Michigan State vs. Connecticut	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium
1 p.m.	Minnesota vs. Seton Hall Michigan vs. South Florida Purdue vs. Cincinnati	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium Naimoli Complex
4 p.m.	Penn State vs. St. John's Northwestern vs. Georgetown Illinois vs. Iowa	Knology Park Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium
7:30 p.m.	Ohio State vs. Notre Dame	Knology Park

Saturday, February 21

10 a.m.	Michigan State vs. Seton Hall Minnesota vs. West Virginia	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium
1 p.m.	Illinois vs. Notre Dame Iowa vs. St. John's Penn State vs. Northwestern	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium Naimoli Complex
4 p.m.	Michigan vs. Cincinnati Ohio State vs. Connecticut Indiana vs. Georgetown	Bright House Field Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium
7:30 p.m.	Purdue vs. South Florida*	Bright House Field

* *Game televised by Bright House Sports Network*

Sunday, February 22

10 a.m.	Ohio State vs. Cincinnati Penn State vs. Seton Hall Northwestern vs. Connecticut Minnesota vs. Michigan State Iowa vs. Georgetown	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium Naimoli Complex Naimoli Complex Naimoli Complex
1 p.m.	Michigan vs. St. John's Purdue vs. Notre Dame Indiana vs. South Florida Illinois vs. West Virginia	Progress Energy Park Jack Russell Stadium Naimoli Complex Naimoli Complex

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